

VISIONS & VALUES



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THE CANDLE CONTINUES TO BURN

Idaho Task Force on Self Determination Waiver Project

As part of its ongoing endeavor to promote self determination, in January, the Council drafted and submitted HCR 29, a joint resolution encouraging the Council, in collaboration with the Dept. of Health & Welfare and other stakeholders, to convene a task force to develop a waiver for a self-directed service delivery system. Upon passage of HCR 29, the Council reconvened and expanded its Task Force on Self Determination to work on this project.

The Self Determination Waiver Project Task Force met in May to begin the design and development of a self-directed service system model based on the principles of self determination as established by the original task force in 2001.

Following the key design features of the Independence Plus framework – an initiative that follows the direction of the President's New Freedom Initiative – the task force was divided up into four workgroup committees addressing these areas: Person-Centered Planning/Supports Brokerage, Individual Budgeting, Financial Management

Services/Provider Choice and Quality Assurance and Improvement. The four workgroup committees continue to meet and draft recommendations for the design and implementation of a self-directed service system and needed infrastructure that would enable Idahoans with developmental disabilities to exercise more choice and control over the services they receive. The full task force is scheduled to meet again on October 23rd to review early outlines of system design and prepare for presentation to the Idaho Legislature in January 2004.

As an additional part of these efforts, Council staff, in collaboration with the Idaho Division of Medicaid, responded to an opportunity through the Independence Plus Initiative by drafting and submitting a grant proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in July. The goal of the project described in the grant proposed systems change in multiple phases: 1)

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Kristi Laney: Making a Difference

In July of 2003 Kristi Laney, of Coeur d'Alene, was hired by People First of Washington to begin forming a People First chapter in Coeur d'Alene. Since then she has made ten presentations to people with disabilities and service providers about the purpose of People First and why Coeur d'Alene would benefit from a strong self-advocacy organization. She also planned and organized a BBQ that was held on September 24th at Coeur d'Alene City Park where 30 people turned out for the first Coeur d'Alene chapter meeting.

People First chapters are far more than support groups. At regularly scheduled meetings, individuals with disabilities meet for friendship, to learn and share advocacy skills, and to discuss other issues of importance in

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Kristi Laney presenting at the Washington / Idaho People First Conference September 7, 2003

COUNCIL PROJECTS

Direct Support Professional Report

In June, the Center on Disabilities and Human Development submitted a final draft of its report to the Council on direct support professionals in Idaho. The report includes information from national research as well as findings from a survey sent to over 4500 Idaho

direct support staff earlier this year. Both research and survey were commissioned by the Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The report includes several recommendations for averting a direct care workforce crisis in Idaho. The recommendations include

strategies to assist with recruitment and retention of workers, improving the professional capacity of workers through training, and finding ways to increase both wages and benefits for direct support staff.

Information contained in the report will be used to

help define next steps for Idaho in this area. One effort that is strengthened by this data is a future grant proposal by the Center for a demonstration project for strengthening the direct service community workforce in Idaho.

2003 Class of Idaho Partners in Policymaking to Graduate in November

Participants in Idaho's 2003 Partners in Policymaking program will be honored at a graduation ceremony in Boise on Saturday, November 8. The twenty-one graduates join more than 8,600 Partner graduates nationally as a part of a growing network of community leaders serving on policy making committees, commissions, and boards at local, state, and national levels.

Partners in Policymaking is an innovative, competency based leadership-training program for adults with

developmental disabilities and parents of young children with disabilities. The purpose of the program is twofold: To teach best practices in disability, and to teach the competencies of influencing and communication.

In 2004, the Council will provide an Advanced Partners for graduates of the



Idaho Program. A new class of Partners will be conducted in 2005. Please check the Idaho Partners in Policymaking web site often for updates on the Advanced Partners training: <http://IdahoPartners.state.id.us>.

2003 Graduates

Danielle Armstrong, Boise
Trina Balanoff, Nampa
Andrew Becker, Moscow
Cynthia Bennett, Eagle
Laurie Borrowman, Boise
Kristi Bowles, Kamiah
Lori Buster, Middleton
Lorraine Crockett, Chester
Chelsea Dennis, Sandpoint
Terri Jameson, Lewiston
Theresa Gardunia, Idaho City
Howard George, Page
Roger Gibson, Caldwell
John Grover, Salmon
Ivan Guyer, Weiser
Tygh Hales, Boise
Melina Lovell, Terreton
Annette Nash, Preston
John Russell, Moscow
Paul Tierney, Nampa
Larina Warnock, Payette

Supported Living Study Completed

A California research firm has completed a study of Idaho's programs that provide supports and services to people who live in their own homes and apartments. Comparing Idaho programs to national trends, Alan, Shea and Associates found that our state's supported living programs meet basic Home and Com-

munity Based Services requirements, but come up short in many specific areas. Lack of choices, freedom from a totally structured day and inadequate person centered planning processes were cited as areas of concern.

This study was commissioned by the Council to support amending Idaho's

two Home and Community Based waivers for people with developmental disabilities. Instead of amending those waivers, the Council is focusing its efforts on developing a self-determination waiver. With information researched from more than 20 states' programs for comparison, the supported living study is proving to be a valuable source

of information for the stakeholder task force currently working on the development of the self-determination waiver.

You may download a copy of Supported Living Project: A Final Report from the Council's website at www.state.id.us/icdd/.

STATE NEWS

Idaho Achievement Standards and Accountability

Federal education law requires that students with disabilities be included in state and district assessments. As achievement standards for Idaho students are developed and adopted, it is important to stay focused on the impact for students with disabilities. Part of Idaho achievement standards development has included a statewide assessment - the ISAT - which will be used to measure student and school 'adequate yearly progress' and become part of a minimum graduation requirement for all Idaho

students. For high school students this is a "high stakes" test, which means that a student must attain at least a proficient score to receive a diploma.

The Idaho Assessment and Accountability Commission proposed rules for accountability state: "All students who are eligible for special education services shall participate in the statewide assessment program. Each student's individualized education program team shall determine whether the student shall participate in the

regular assessment without accommodations, the regular assessment with accommodations or adaptations, or whether the student qualifies for and shall participate in an alternate assessment."

Based on public input, the commission has made changes to incorporate an opportunity for a student who does not attain at least a proficient score on the ISAT to demonstrate proficiency of the achievement standards through some other "locally established mechanism." However, the student must have attempted the ISAT and

failed to attain a proficient score before appealing to the local school board for this opportunity.

The proposed rules are currently under consideration by the State Board of Education and can be reviewed by going to the following website: www.idahoboardofed.org/saa/goals.asp and clicking on "Proposed Accountability Rules." The Board will make a final decision on these rules in November 2003. You can submit written comments to the State Board via email to: accountability@osbe.state.id.us.

Health & Welfare to Begin Care Management

Idaho's Department of Health and Welfare will soon implement a managed care system for people with developmental disabilities, who are receiving services that are paid by Medicaid. Generally adults (some 15 to 18 year olds who are enrolled in the ISSH waiver also be included) who are receiving waiver services, or who are enrolled with developmental disabilities agencies, or who are receiving service coordination, will be participating in the new system.

Care Management, as it is being termed by the Department, will begin in November with notices being mailed to individuals who have service plans that are due for renewal in March 2004. Every month thereafter, the Department will notify people by letter 4 months in advance of their

plan renewal dates. The letter will explain what people need to do to renew and continue their services.

People will be introduced to new things under care management. A **level of support** will identify a dollar amount range in which a person's cost of services must fall. The level of support will be based upon individuals needs as identified through an assessment process. An individual **budget** will be assigned to people who will next decide which services they want in their new plan as they put that plan together with their support team and their **plan developer**.

The Department will be providing training to individuals and their families to make sure everyone understands these changes. To

learn when training will be provided in your area contact the Regional Medicaid Services office at one of the

telephone numbers listed below. More information is available on the Internet at www2.id.us/dhw/medicaid.

Region	Office	Telephone#
1	Coeur d'Alene	(208) 769-1567
2	Lewiston	(208) 799-4330
3	Caldwell	(208) 455-7150
4	Boise	(208) 334-0940
5	Twin Falls	(208) 736-3024
6	Pocatello	(208) 239-6260
7	Idaho Falls	(208) 528-5750

COUNCIL VISION:

"All Idahoans participate as equal members of society, empowered to reach their full potential as responsible and contributing citizens of their communities."



NATIONAL NEWS

IDEA Reauthorization

The reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (PL 105-17) has been in progress for the last several months and may continue into next year. The Council has drafted a position statement on IDEA reauthorization and contacted Idaho's Congressional delegation. The Council has grave about HR 1350 and it's potentially negative impact on students with disabilities in Idaho. The Senate's Health Education Labor and Pensions (HELP) committee crafted a bipartisan bill (S 1248) that has many components that are an improvement over HR 1350; however, The Council continues to have concerns about legislation around these issues:

Discipline—the law must contain continued provisions for behavior intervention plans based on functional behavioral assessments. This process may identify absent, but needed, supports.

Qualified Personnel—every child with a disability must receive services from highly qualified general and special education teachers, related service providers and administrators.

IEP provisions—the bill replaces short-term objectives with quarterly reports. Benchmarks and short-term objectives are essential to guide the progress toward the annual goal by breaking the goals into manageable and understandable steps that state in the IEP "how it will happen." It would be much better for children and parents to retain the benchmarks and short-term objectives provided in current law.

Procedural Safeguards/Due Process Provisions—The bill limits due process protections for students with disabilities. The Preliminary Meeting provision requiring that parents meet with the school district before their case may proceed to hearing is unnecessary because current law already gives districts opportunities to resolve the problem. Mediation is a better way to resolve disputes if and when they occur. Also, current law requires parents to "state the nature of the problem of the child" and "a proposed resolution of the problem" in a complaint or hearing request. With this information school districts know what they need to do to cure the problem and can do so if they choose.

Several amendments may be introduced while the bill is being considered, including limiting attorney fees for parents, allowing vouchers, and providing full fund for IDEA. The Council does not support the use of vouchers but believes is adequate funding and support for our public schools to enable them to provide every student with a free appropriate public education including needed supports and services. If you would like a copy of the Council's position statement on IDEA reauthorization please contact Tracy Warren in the Council office.

Customer Satisfaction Coming

The Federal Developmental Disabilities Act of 2000 established new requirements for states to measure consumer satisfaction with Council services and activities. Councils in all states and territories will be using identical means for measuring the satisfaction of people with developmental disabilities and others with the work of the Council.

Idaho has been selected as a pilot state to test two processes for gathering information. A one-page questionnaire will be used to ask individuals with developmental disabilities about their level of satisfaction with specific services or events that the Council either sponsored or provided. Small focus group sessions will also be used for collecting satisfaction of other individuals who have engaged council supported activities.

Data from the surveys and focus groups will provide valuable information to the council on how well it is meeting the needs and expectations of people in Idaho. And when Idaho's results are combined with the other states and territories, it will provide comparative information on how well each and all are meeting the federal mandates required by law.

The pilot will be tested for a brief period in early 2004 and implemented statewide and nationwide by all councils beginning October 2004. Both Council Executive Director Marilyn Sword and staff member, Ron Enright has provided input into the development of the survey instruments.

Resource for Students

Financial Aid for Students with Disabilities, 2003 Edition: HEATH's annual revision of this popular resource guide is now available. The 2003 edition contains completely updated and revised information to help individuals with disabilities to seek and obtain financial assistance for postsecondary education. The guide describes federal financial aid programs, state vocational rehabilitation services, and regional and local sources. A listing of nationally awarded grants and a pre-college checklist to organize the search for funds complete the guide can be found at their website, www.heath.gwu.edu.

EDITORIALS

Building Communities

During the past seven years, I have watched Idaho move into an era of truly *'building communities.'* The membership of the

*Kathy Gneiting,
Chair*

Council on Developmental Disabilities has become one that is governed by the people it serves. I have learned also, that when we are able to understand that a community is composed of a series of partnerships which unlock the potential of each individual living within that community, then we can begin to

look 'outside the box' at ways to incorporate even the most excluded and 'marginalized' people into the process of active community building.

Think about the people who have been 'labeled' by society. Each of the 'labels' focuses exclusively on what is *different* about people and serves to obscure their other qualities. In other words, being guided by 'labels', we tend to forget that 'disabled' individuals just like everyone else have deeply felt, personal needs for dignity, pleasure, friendship,

hope for the future and for a meaningful 'belonging' within a community.

At this time, I would like to thank each of you for your untiring service, and let you know of my resignation from the Council on Developmental Disabilities.

May I leave you with the quote that I began this journey with...

"The threshold of opportunity has to be the same for all people. What we do with the opportunity defines us. The existence of the opportunity defines our society."

May we never forget...

"One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Sincerely, Kathy Gneiting

Guardianship and Self-Determination

As philosophy and practice move toward services and supports that are directed by individuals with developmental disabilities,

*Marilyn Sword,
Director*

the question invariably arises as to the role of guardians and guardianship. Should individuals in a self-determined system be prohibited from having a guardian or, if found legally necessary, should they be required to have one? Without a guardian, how is risk managed? With a guardian, how is informed personal choice ensured? And we all know of situations where people are taken advantage of – whether they have a guardian or not

Although guardianship has historically been regarded as the solution for providing protection and assistance for people with disabilities, alternatives are emerging that fulfill that role but are less intrusive into a person's individual liberties. One such option is partial guardianship whereby the guardian has limited, rather than full decision making authority. Another is the use of durable powers of attorney where a person is designated to make certain decisions for the person with a disability. This has the benefit of permitting the family to continue to assist the person without going to court and taking away the individual's rights to make decisions. When individuals simply need someone to help them with their financial affairs, a

conservator can be named or the person can have a government-designated "payee" to receive and distribute SSI and other benefits on behalf of the person.

Person-centered planning also provides a systemic alternative. By surrounding a person with a circle of family members and friends who provide support and assistance to an individual while honoring his/her preferences, choice, and abilities, the need for a full, formal guardianship arrangement may be avoided.

Whatever course of action is taken, today's individuals and families have more options available to them that both provide support and freedom for people with developmental disabilities.

Community Development Takes Off

As part of the **Real Choice Systems Change** grant awarded to Idaho State University's Institute of Rural Health, the Idaho Falls area has been selected to undertake a project to enhance the community's awareness and ability to welcome and include people with disabilities. A Community Development Team has been formed bringing together a wide variety of citizen exper-

tise. The Team will be hosting a series of meetings and workshops to inform its members and the community about various disability issues. The effort is being coordinated by **Kathy Gneiting** of Jason and Associates. At the project's first workshop, **Jim Piet** and **Alan Robichaud** of New Hampshire presented information on community development basics.



Self Determination - Waiver Project *(Continued from page 1)*

Development and cost analysis of a self directed Medicaid services and supports waiver; 2) Submission of design to the Idaho Legislature and to CMS; 3) Statewide public education and training for consumers and providers; 4) Infrastructure development and implementation; and 5) Continuous quality management and improvement employing the CMS Quality Framework. The Council is pleased to announce that this effort was successful: the Division of Medicaid (in coordination with the Council) was awarded a grant of \$499,642 over a three-year

period to begin work on the project as proposed.

The Council recognizes that key to the success of this project is a coordinated effort to educate individuals with disabilities, their families and service providers about self determination and the possibilities afforded through access to self-directed supports. An educational training program for teams of self-advocates will begin soon. These training teams will provide training on self determination to other self advocates in areas around the state beginning next year.

Kristi Laney *(Continued from page 1)*

their personal lives, in their towns, state, and nationally. For many, especially those who grew up in institutions, speaking up at People First meetings is often the first time they've ever spoken for themselves and been listened to.

The Council has contracted with People First of Washington for the past three years in an effort to create People First chapters in northern Idaho and to advance the self-advocacy movement. Currently, Idaho has five chapters: Silver Valley, Moscow, Kamiah, Grangeville, and soon thanks to Kristi, Coeur d'Alene. Good work, Kristi!

New Faces At The Council

Our newest Council member, **Tygh Hales**, was recently appointed to the Council and is also a Partners in Policymaking participant. Council members reappointed are: **Julie Fodor, Ken Deibert, Mike Smith, Maggie Blackstead, Rick Betzer, Socorro Sanchez** and Wendall Cass. The Council would also like to thank **Kristi Laney** for serving on the Council from 1996 until 2003. Kristi is now on the State Independent Living Council.

Ron Enright and Tracy Warren joined the Council office in February as Program Specialists and the newest addition to the Council office is **Judy Wauer**. Judy worked at the Health District in Caldwell before joining us as the Administrative Assistant II.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

October

- 23 Idaho Task Force on Self-Determination
- 23-27 State Rehabilitation Council Quarterly Meeting

November

- 6-7 Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities Quarterly Meeting
- 7-8 Partners in Policymaking Session 8 & Graduation
- 9-11 National Association of Councils on Dev. Disabilities Annual Fall Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, Sheraton City Centre
- 12 Community Integration Committee
- 20 Idaho Task Force on Self-Determination

December

- 4-5 Infant Toddler Council Quarterly Meeting
- 10-13 TASH Conference "possibilities..." Chicago Hilton Towers
- 25 **MERRY CHRISTMAS—Council Office Closed for the Day!**